

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A method, implemented at least in part by a computing apparatus, of detecting executable code embedded in an Extensible Markup Language (XML) document, comprising:

applying Extensible Markup Language (XML) markup to a computer-generated document;

locating an executable code embedded in the document; and

applying an attribute to a root level element of the XML markup for notifying a subsequent application of the presence of the embedded executable code;

wherein the attribute comprises a flag structure that enables the subsequent application to reject the embedded code within the XML document when the XML document is opened indicates one of the following:

~~a rejection of the XML document by the subsequent application; and~~

~~a continuation of parsing the XML document by the subsequent application.~~

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

passing the document to the subsequent application;

parsing the XML markup by the subsequent application to locate the attribute applied to the root level element of the XML markup applied to the document.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 2, whereby if the attribute is located by the subsequent application, rejecting the document as corrupted by the embedded executable code.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 2, whereby if the attribute is located, determining whether the embedded executable code associated with the attribute requires

rejection of the document, and if not, continuing to parse the XML markup of the document by the subsequent application.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 2, whereby parsing the XML markup by the subsequent application includes locating the executable code embedded in the document; determining by the subsequent application whether an attribute is present for notifying the subsequent application of the presence of the executable code; and if the attribute is not present, then rejecting the executable code.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 2, whereby the attribute is a macros present attribute for indicating the presence of VBA code in the document.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 6, whereby the macros present attribute has a value of “yes” where an XML markup element is in the document containing the VBA code.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 7, whereby the macros present attribute has a value of “no” indicating that no XML element is in the file containing the VBA code.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 2, whereby the attribute is an embedded object present attribute indicating the presence of one or more OLE objects in the document.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 9, whereby the embedded object present attribute has a value of “yes” indicating the presence of at least one XML element in the document containing data associated with an OLE object.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 10, whereby the embedded object present attribute has a value of “no” indicating that there are no XML elements in the file containing data associated with an OLE object.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 2, whereby the attribute is an OCX present attribute indicating the presence of OCX objects in the document.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 12, whereby the OCX present object has a value of “yes” indicating that the presence of at least one XML element in the document containing data associated with an OCX object.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 13, whereby the OCX present object has a value of “no” indicating that there are no XML elements in the document containing data associated with an OCX object.

15. (Currently amended) A method of system for detecting executable code embedded in an Extensible Markup Language (XML) document, comprising:

a memory storage; and

a processing unit coupled to the memory storage, wherein the processing unit is operative to:

applying apply Extensible Markup Language (XML) markup to a computer-generated document;

locating locate an executable code embedded in the document;

applying apply an attribute to a root level element of the XML markup for notifying a subsequent application of the presence of the embedded executable code;

passing pass the document to the subsequent application;

parsing parse the XML markup by the subsequent application to locate the attribute applied to the root level element of the XML markup applied to the document; and

if the attribute is located by the subsequent application, rejecting reject the document as corrupted by the embedded executable code;

wherein the attribute comprises a flag structure that enables the subsequent application to reject the embedded code within the XML document when the XML document is opened indicates rejection of the XML document by the subsequent application.

16. (Currently Amended) The method system of Claim 15, whereby if the embedded executable code associated with the attribute does not require rejection of the document, continuing to parse the XML markup of the document by the subsequent application.

17. (Currently amended) The method system of Claim 15, whereby parsing the XML markup by the subsequent application includes locating the executable code embedded in the document;

determining by the subsequent application whether the attribute is present for notifying the subsequent application of the presence of the executable code; and

if the attribute is not present, then rejecting the executable code.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium on which is stored instructions which when executed by a computer perform a method of detecting executable code embedded in an Extensible Markup Language (XML) document, comprising:

applying Extensible Markup Language (XML) markup to a computer-generated document;

locating an executable code embedded in the document;

applying an attribute to a root level element of the XML markup for notifying a subsequent application of the presence of the embedded executable code wherein the attribute comprises a flag structure that enables the subsequent application to reject the embedded code within the XML document when the XML document is opened ~~indicates rejection of the XML document by the subsequent application~~;

passing the document to the subsequent application;

parsing the XML markup by the subsequent application to locate the attribute applied to the root level element of the XML markup applied to the document; and

if the attribute is located by the subsequent application, rejecting the document as corrupted by the embedded executable code; and

~~else if continuing to parse the XML document;~~

~~whereby the subsequent application is notified of the presence of the embedded executable code without the subsequent application first parsing all elements of the XML document prior to the embedded executable code.~~

19. (Original) The computer readable medium of Claim 18, whereby if the embedded executable code associated with the attribute does not require rejection of the document, continuing to parse the XML markup of the document by the subsequent application.

20. (Original) The computer readable medium of Claim 18, whereby parsing the XML markup by the subsequent application includes locating the executable code embedded in the document;

determining by the subsequent application whether an attribute is present for notifying the subsequent application of the presence of the executable code; and

if the attribute is not present, then rejecting the executable code.